### "MERITO" MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION IN SANCTUARIES

Mission
To increase our diverse
community's understanding of
ocean-related threats within
sanctuaries, and be an important
long-term element in affecting
change in individual behavior.



MERITO Watershed Institute students restore native plants at Elkhorn Slough



Stenciling Stormdrains on Earth Day in Watsonville





A new and innovative multicultural education program, known as "MERITO" (Multicultural Education for Resource Issues Threatening Oceans) is currently being piloted by the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary in partnership with local Hispanic communities to provide expanded bilingual outreach and education on marine and coastal environments and their conservation to Hispanic students, teachers, adults and families. MERITO, (Spanish meaning is "merit" or "worth") includes three specific areas of focus:

Community-based outreach for
Hispanic youth and migrant families
Site-based outreach for Latino youth
and families, in conjunction with
California State Parks and National
Estuarine Research Reserves
Professional development and
internships for Hispanic-serving
teachers and Latino undergraduate and
graduate students

Over twenty federal and state agencies, universities, and private groups are onboard in support of the MERITO plan's goals and objectives.

On-the-ground bilingual education programs, materials, and products address specific resource protection issues and educate our Hispanic citizenry on how to protect coastal and watershed areas, how to take individual action, and why ocean protection is a role all coastal citizens share.

FY 04' MERITO will expand to Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

MERITO's outreach programs provide bilingual marine conservation outreach in existing programs:

Field trips and classroom outreach for

K-12 school-based programs serving migrant children and their families **Training and resources** for youth leaders of city-run, after-school programs and extended education programs that serve Hispanic youth

Internships and scholarships for Hispanic college students enrolled with California State University Monterey Bay and community colleges

**Professional Development** for teachers enrolled with National Hispanic University & CSU Monterey Bay

**Special events and projects** for migrant families in cooperation with the Coalition of Central Coast County Farm Bureaus

## Demographic and Educational Justification\*

47% of Monterey County's popln. is Latino 32% of California's population is Latino Nationally, more than 2 in 5 Latinos have not graduated from high school Only 10% of Latinos graduate from college (compared to 28% of non-Latino whites)

NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary Program is interested in using the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary's Multicultural Education Plan as a model multicultural marine conservation outreach and education program for other national marine sanctuaries across the nation. For more information on MERITO contact Karen Grimmer at email: karen.grimmer@noaa.gov

<sup>\* 2000</sup> Census - US Census Bureau

# The following groups and organizations have helped to identify, develop and implement the focused MERITO partnership programs:

Boys & Girls Clubs of Monterey County

California State Parks, Monterey District

California State University Monterey Bay - Earth System, Science & Policy Dept.

California State University Monterey Bay - Seafloor Mapping Lab

California State University Monterey Bay - Teacher Education Dept.

California State University Monterey Bay - Recruitment in Science Education

California State University's Moss Landing Marine Laboratories

Central Coast Coalition of Farm Bureaus

City of Salinas - 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance Program & Kid's House Program

City of Watsonville - Parks and Recreation & Neighborhood Services

City of Watsonville - Public Works

Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve

Monterey Bay Aquarium

Monterey County Office of Education - Migrant Education

**National Hispanic University** 

National Resources Conservation Service

O'Neill Sea Odyssey

Pajaro Valley Unified School District

Save Our Shores

Camp S.E.A. Lab Monterey Bay

Society of Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science

University of California Santa Cruz's Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement Program

#### **Fiscal Sponsors:**

California Resources Agency

Community Foundation of Monterey County

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

National Marine Sanctuary Program

Mcmahon Foundation

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

#### **In-kind Resources:**

National Marine Sanctuary Foundation

Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation

Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve

California State Parks, Monterey District

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